

Pope & Patriarchs: The 1848 Letters of Pope

Pius IX and the Orthodox Patriarchs

Shortly after his ascension to the papal throne in 1846, Pope Pius IX wrote the Apostolic Letter *In suprema Petri apostoli sede*, “On the Supreme Throne of Peter the Apostle” (6 January 1848). While it was primarily intended for Eastern Catholics of the various Oriental Rites it also addressed Orthodox Christians, calling them back to unity with Rome.

Fr. Aidan Nichols characterizes Pius IX’s letter as “the first ‘unionist’ encyclical of the modern papacy” and as the first part of “a papal concern for the Christian East of a depth and urgency not seen since Florence.” “Thousands upon thousands” of this letter were distributed in a Greek translation directly to the Orthodox faithful. (*Rome and the Eastern Churches*, p. 352).

Despite its historical importance as one of the first texts of the modern era relative to Catholic—Orthodox relations, English translations of Pius IX’s letter have been few and, until now, have not been available online.

A translation from the French version, published in the journal *Irenikon* in 1929, has been prepared by Michaël de Verteuil. The French text can be found here at the Internet Archive

<http://www.archive.org/details/InSupremaPetriApostoliSede>

and was supplied by the Monastery of Chevetogne, publishers of *Irenikon*.

The reply to Pius IX’s letter, issued by the Orthodox Patriarchs later that year, is better known and is online here:

http://www.orthodoxinfo.com/ecumenism/encyc_1848.aspx

It was signed by Anthimos VI, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, along with Hierotheus, Patriarch of Alexandria, Methodios, Patriarch of Antioch and Cyril, Patriarch of Jerusalem, along with the Holy Synods of each of the Patriarchates.

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On the Supreme Throne of Peter the Apostle

Apostolic Letter of Pope Pius IX, dated 6 January 1848

Placed by divine disposition on the supreme seat of the Apostle Peter, and burdened with responsibility for all the Churches despite Our unworthiness, We have never ceased since the outset of Our pontificate from casting Our loving gaze upon the Christian peoples of the East and their surrounding lands, whatever their rite, for they seemed for a number reasons to stake a special claim on Our solicitous attention. It is in the East that the only Son of God appeared, made man for us men, and who through His life, death and resurrection deigned bring about the work of human redemption. It is in the East that the Gospel of light and peace was first preached by the divine Saviour Himself and by His disciples, and where blossomed the numerous Churches, illustrious by virtue of the names of the apostles who founded them. In the years that followed and over the span of centuries, famous bishops and martyrs and many others reputed for their sanctity and doctrine gushed forth from among the peoples of the East. The whole world sings the praises of Ignatius of Antioch, of Polycarp of Smyrna, of the three Gregories of Neocaesarea, Nyssa and Nazianzus, of Athanasius of Alexandria, of Basil of Caesarea, of John Chrysostom, of the two Cyrils of Jerusalem and Alexandria, of Gregory the Armenian, of Ephrem of Syria, of John Damascene, of Cyril and Methodius, apostles to the Slavs, not to mention a host of others, or also of those who shed their blood for Christ, or who acquired immortal fame through their learned writings and holy works. Yet another glory of the East is the memory of its numerous assemblies of bishops, and especially the celebrated first ecumenical councils held under the presidency of the Roman Pontiff, and at which the catholic faith was preserved from the innovators of the time and confirmed through solemn judgments. Ultimately, down to these most recent times, even as (sadly!) far too great a number of Eastern Christians

distanced itself from communion with this Holy See and as a consequence from the unity of the Catholic Church, and even as these lands fell under the domination of peoples foreign to the Christian religion, many men mustered there who have testified, through the assistance of divine grace and amidst all the endlessly repeated calamities and perils, of an unshakable determination in the true faith and Catholic unity. We wish in particular to praise most highly those Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops and Bishops who have spared nothing in sheltering their flock in the profession of Catholic truth. Their pains, blessed by God, have been such that, after the storm and in less troubled times, one has found them still maintaining in Catholic unity a considerable flock amidst the desolation.

It is thus principally to you that We address Our words, Catholic Bishops, Venerable Brothers and beloved sons, and to you clergy in all orders who have persevered, unshakable in the faith and communion with this Holy See, or who, no less praiseworthy, have returned to it having recognized your error. Though We have already made haste in responding to many of you who sent us letters of congratulations for Our elevation to the sovereign Pontificate, and though We have written to all the Catholic Bishops throughout the world in Our encyclical of 9 November, 1846 , We further insist on sending you an especial assurance of both the burning love We bear for you and Our solicitude for all that concerns you. We find in this a favourable opportunity to express these sentiments to you, as We send Our venerable brother Innocent, Archbishop of Saida, as ambassador to the Sublime Porte in order to compliment on Our behalf the right-powerful Sultan of the Turks and to thank him for the gracious embassy he took the lead in sending to us. We have enjoined in the most pressing manner our venerable brother to commend earnestly to this Sultan both your persons and interests, as well as the interests of the Catholic Church over throughout whole extent of the vast Ottoman empire. We have no doubt

that this Sultan, who has already proven his good will towards you, will be increasingly favourably disposed to you, and that among his subjects no one will need suffer on behalf of the Christian religion. The Archbishop of Saida will inform you all the more strongly of the depth of Our love for you through the Bishops and Primates of your respective peoples whom he will be able to meet in Constantinople; before returning to us, he will travel, as time and circumstances permit, to various parts in the East so as to visit on Our behalf the Catholic Churches of all the rites in these lands, as We have commanded him, and to testify of Our affection and words of consolation for their concerns to those among Our venerable brothers and beloved sons whom he will meet there.

The same Archbishop will transmit to you and will bring to general attention the letter that We have addressed to you as testimony to Our love for your Catholic works; you will find within assurance that We have nothing closest to our heart than to merit these from you and from the Catholic religion as it exists in your lands. And as it has been reported to us among other things that, in the ecclesiastic structures amongst your peoples, certain issues, as a result of an unfortunate past, remain either uncertain or resolved other than appropriately, We shall employ Ourselves with joy, by virtue of Our apostolic authority, so that all shall henceforth be disposed and ordered in conformity with the sacred canons and the traditions of the Holy Fathers. We shall maintain intact your particular Catholic liturgies; as We value them greatly, even as they differ in some ways from the Latin liturgy. Our predecessors always held them in great esteem due to the venerable antiquity of their origin, the languages employed by the Apostles and the Fathers and in which they are written down, as well as the magnificence of their rites, truly suited as they are to nourishing the piety of the faithful and to imbue them with respect for the divine mysteries.

Various Decrees and Constitutions issued by the Roman Pontiffs for the conservation of the Eastern liturgies testify to the sentiments of the Apostolic See in this regard. It suffices to cite the apostolic letters of Our predecessor Benedict XIV, and especially that of 26 July 1735¹, beginning with these words: *Allatae sunt*. Eastern priests who find themselves in the West are completely free to celebrate in the Latin churches according to the rite proper to their people, and have at their disposal in various places, but especially in Rome, shrines specifically assigned to their use. Furthermore, there is no shortage of monasteries associated with the Eastern rite, nor of houses devoted to Easterners, nor of colleges erected to receive their sons, either individually or together with other young people, so that raised in the sacred arts and sciences and formed in clerical discipline, they might become able to exercise subsequently ecclesiastical functions, each among his own people. And while the calamities of recent years may have led to the destruction of some of these institutions, several are still operating and flourishing; is not their continued existence, Venerable Fathers and beloved sons, manifest evidence of the singular affection the Apostolic See bears for you, to you, and to all that concerns you?

As is already known to you, Venerable Brothers and most dear sons, We also make use of the works of that Congregation of the holy Roman Church that draws its name from the purpose for which it was established, *a Propaganda fide*, to exercise greater vigilance for your religious concerns. Yet many more in Our illustrious city, whether Roman or foreign, strive on behalf of your interests. Thus, some Bishops of the Latin rite, joined to Bishops from the Eastern rites and other religious personages, have formed not too long ago under the authority of the Congregation

¹ See the bulls of Benedict XIV, Tome IV, No 44; also other constitutions from the same Pontiff on this subject, Tome I, No 87 and Tome III, No 44.

we have just mentioned, a pious association the purpose of which is to contribute in all ways, with the help of daily prayers and alms, to the progress and development of the Catholic religion among you. As soon as We were apprised of this pious project, We praised and approved it, pressing its authors to set their hand to the task without delay.

What we have just said is addressed to all Our Eastern sons, but our words now turn, especially, to those of you who enjoy authority over others. Whatever your office, O Venerable Brothers, Catholic Bishops of these lands, may this exhortation be for you as a spur, exciting again your zeal and that of your clergy. We thus exhort you in the Lord our God, to watch over, fully confident of heavenly assistance and with an even greater ardour, the safety of your dear flock, to be without ceasing its light through both word and example so that that it may journey with dignity in accordance with God's will, yielding the fruit of all manner of good works. So that the priests who are in your care devote themselves fully to these same cares: press especially those who have the care of souls, so that they might hold close to their heart the dignity of the house of God; that they might stimulate the piety of the people; that they might administer in holiness the things that are holy; and that, without neglecting their other duties, they might apply all their attention to instructing the young in the articles of Christian doctrine and to distributing to the other faithful the bread of the divine word, to each according to his capacity. They must, and you yourselves also must, deploy the greatest vigilance so that all the faithful might be diligent in conserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, giving thanks to the Lord of light and to the Father of mercies for what He has deigned to allow, by an act of His grace, in spite of such a great upsetting of all things, that they should have remained firm in the Catholic communion of the unique Church of Christ, or who have entered into it while such a great number of their fellows are still erring outside the unique fold of Christ abandoned by their

forebears such long a time ago.

After having spoken to you thus, We cannot restrain ourselves back from addressing the words of charity and peace to those Easterners who, though glorying in the name of Christian, keep themselves apart from communion with the see of Peter. The charity of Jesus Christ prods us forward, and in conformity with its warnings and its examples We hurry forth after the sheep lost along paths both arduous and inaccessible, striving to bring them succour in their frailty so that they may enter at last within the fold of the Lord's flocks.

Pray listen to Our words, all you who, in the lands of the East and on its margins, bear the glory of the name Christian yet who nevertheless are not in communion with the holy Roman Church; and you especially who, charged with the sacred tasks or bearing the highest ecclesiastical dignities, have authority over these peoples. Recall the ancient state of your Churches, when these were joined amongst themselves and with the other Churches of the Catholic universe through the bond of unity. Then consider what ends those divisions that followed have served, the result of which has been to break the unity of either doctrine or ecclesiastic order not only with the Western Churches, but even among your own. Recall the words of the creed, in which you confess with us: belief in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Seek to find whether it is possible to ascertain this unity of the catholic, holy and apostolic Church among such division as exist between your Churches, as you decline to recognize it in the communion of the Roman Church under whose authority such a great number of Churches are united and have been so always in all parts of the world. And to clearly understand this feature of the unity that must mark the Church catholic, meditate upon this prayer given to us in the Gospel of St John², in which Christ, the only Son of God, prays to his Father

² John 17: 11, 20 et seqq.

on behalf of his disciples: "Holy Father, keep them in thy name whom thou has given me; that they may be one, as we also are"; and He adds immediately following : "And not for them only do I pray, but for them also who through their word shall believe in me; that they all may be one, as thou, Father, in me, and I in thee; that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou hast given me, I have given to them; that they may be one, as we also are one: I in them, and thou in me; that they may be made perfect in one: and the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast also loved me."

Thus, the author himself of human salvation, Christ Our Lord, laid the foundation of his one Church, against which the gates of Hell shall not prevail, in the Prince of the Apostles: Peter, to whom He gave the keys of the kingdom of Heaven³; for whom He prayed, so that his faith might never fail, commanding him, as well, to confirm his brothers in the same faith⁴; on whom He laid the charge to feed His lambs and sheep⁵, in other words: the whole Church consisting of the true lambs and sheep of Christ. And these prerogatives similarly belong to the Bishops of Rome, successors of Peter: as, since the death of Peter, the Church, she that must last till the end of time, cannot be deprived of the foundation on which she was built by Christ. This is why St. Irenaeus, disciple of Polycarp who before him had received the teachings of the Apostle John -- Irenaeus, later bishop of Lyons whom those in the East as well as those in the West number among the principal lights of Christian antiquity -- wishing to refute the heretics of his time in order to demonstrate the doctrine transmitted by the apostles, believed it superfluous to spell out

³ Matthew 16: 18-19.

⁴ Luke 22: 31-32.

⁵ John 21: 15 et seqq.

the succession in all the Churches of apostolic origin; it seemed sufficient to him to set the doctrine of the Church of Rome against the innovators, as he wrote "For it is a matter of necessity that every Church should agree with this Church, on account of its pre-eminent authority, that is, the faithful everywhere, inasmuch as the apostolical tradition has been preserved continuously by those who exist everywhere."⁶

As We know well, all of you are intent to hold to the doctrine preserved by your forebears. You should then follow the ancient Bishops and Christians of all the lands of the East; innumerable are their monumental works that attest, in agreement with Westerners, to their respect for the authority of the Roman Pontiffs. Among the more remarkable documents that the ancient East has left us on this subject (aside from the testimony of Irenaeus cited above), We would draw attention to the fourth century events relating to Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, no less illustrious for his holiness than for his doctrine and pastoral zeal. Unjustly condemned by the Eastern Bishops, most particularly at the council held in Tyre, and expelled from his Church, he came to Rome to which also journeyed other Eastern Bishops who were like him unjustly despoiled of their sees. "The Bishop of Rome (Julius, Our predecessor), having examined the cause of each and finding them all faithful to the Nicæan faith and in full agreement with him, received them into communion. And as, from the dignity of his See, all being under his care, he confirmed each in his respective Church. He also wrote to the Eastern Bishops, reprimanding them because they had failed to decide justly in the causes of these Pontiffs and so troubled the peace of the Church."⁷ At the beginning of the fifth century, John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople and no less illustrious than Athanasius, condemned in a sovereign injustice by a

⁶ Irenaeus, *Contra Haereses*, Book III, chapter 3.

⁷ Sozomen, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, Book III, chapter 8; see also Athanasius, *Apologia Contra Arianos*, *passim*.

council at Chalcedon, appealed through letters and envoys to Our Apostolic See and was declared blameless by Our predecessor Saint Innocent I.⁸

The Council of Chalcedon, held in 451, is another celebrated monument to the veneration of your forebears for the authority of the Roman Pontiffs. The six hundred Bishops who attended, almost all (bar a few rare exceptions) from the East, after having heard in the second session the reading of a letter from the Roman Pontiff, Saint Leo the Great, all cried out as one : *Peter has spoken from the mouth of Leo*. And the assembly presided over by the Papal Legates having then separated, the Council Fathers, in the report on the proceedings that they forwarded to Saint Leo, affirmed that he himself through his Legates had commanded the gathered Bishops *as the head does the limbs*.⁹

And it is not only from the canons of the Council of Chalcedon, but also from the canons of all the other ancient Councils of the East, that We could claim and for which it is a constant that the Roman Pontiffs always held the first place in the Council -- especially the Ecumenical Councils -- for which their authority was invoked, and this both before the holding of the Councils and after their dissolution. In addition to these Councils, there are furthermore a great number of passages found in the writings of the ancient writers and Fathers of the East, as well as many historical examples, from which it is evident that the supreme authority of the Roman Pontiffs had always from the time of your forefathers been in force throughout the East. But it would take too long to cite in detail all this testimony; such as we have noted should anyway suffice in highlighting the truth, and We shall limit ourselves to recalling how, even in Apostolic

⁸ See the letters of St. Innocent to St. John Chrysostom, and the letters of St. John Chrysostom to St. Innocent, the clergy, and the people of Constantinople.

⁹ Labbe, Tome IV, pp. 1235 and 7755, Venice edition.

times, the faithful of Corinth behaved when dissensions severely troubled their Church. The Corinthians appealed to Saint Clement who, but few years after the death of Peter, had been made Pontiff of the Roman Church.¹⁰ They wrote to him on this subject and charged Fortunatus to bear their letters to him. Clement, after having closely examined the matter, charged this same Fortunatus, to whom he joined his own envoys Claudius Ephebus and Valerius Vito, to bear to Corinth that famous letter from the holy Pontiff and the Roman Church in which the Corinthians and all other Easterners set such store that it was read publicly in many churches over the centuries that followed.¹¹

We thus exhort you, and We entreat you to return without delay -- to enter into communion with the Holy See of Peter in which lies the foundation of the true Church or Christ as affirmed by both the tradition of your forebears and the tradition of the other ancient Fathers, as well as the very words of Our Lord Jesus Christ found in the holy Gospels and that we cited to you. For it is not, and never will be possible for those who wish to be separate from the Rock [*Pierre*] on which the Church was divinely built, to be in communion with the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

As a result, no reasons can excuse failing to return to the true Church and to communion with the Holy See. As you know well, in matters touching on the profession of the divine faith there is nothing so hard that one should not bear it for the glory of Christ and the reward of eternal life. For Our part, We offer you the assurance that nothing would be sweeter to us than to see you return to Our communion. Far from seeking to distress you through some prescription that could seem burdensome, We will receive you with a fatherly kindness and with the most

¹⁰ Bibliotheca veterum patrum, a Gallandio edita, Tome I, p. 9 et seqq.

¹¹ Eusebius, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, Book III, chapter 16. See also in Book IV, chapter 23, the witness of Bishop Dionysius of Corinth

gentle love, as per the constant custom of the Holy See. We ask of you only those things that are strictly necessary: return to unity; agree with us in the profession of the true faith that the Catholic Church holds and teaches; and, along with that of the whole Church itself, maintain communion with the supreme see of Peter. With respect to your sacred rites, only those things found in them contrary to catholic faith and unity are subject to correction. Once remedied in this regard, your ancient Eastern liturgies will remain unchanged. We have already declared in the first part of this letter how these liturgies are dear to us, and how much they were so also to Our predecessors, due to their antiquity and the magnificence of their rites, so appropriate for nurturing the faith.

In addition, with respect to the holy ministers, priests and pontiffs of the peoples of the East who return to catholic unity, We have considered and decided to follow the same path as that followed so frequently by Our predecessors, both in the past that immediately precedes Our own and in earlier times; We shall confirm them in their rank and dignities and We shall count on them, no less than on the other Eastern Catholic clergy, to maintain and spread the practice of the catholic faith amongst their peoples. We will apply ourselves in this ceaselessly with the greatest care to be worthy of one and all.

May the all-merciful God give the force of truth to our words! That these blessings may enfold those of Our brothers and sons who share Our concern for the salvation of your souls! Oh! If this consolation were given Us: to see catholic unity reestablished among Eastern Christians, and to find in this unity a new wind to imbue with increasing force the true faith of Jesus Christ among the infidels! We will not cease to beseech the God of mercies, Father of light through His only Son our Redeemer, in the most heartfelt prayers and supplications, invoking the protection of the very blessed Virgin, Mother of God, and of the holy Apostles, the Martyrs, the Fathers, all

of whom, through their sermons, their blood, their virtue and their writings, conserved and spread the true religion of Christ throughout the East. Filled with the desire to see you return to the fold of the Catholic Church, and to bless you as Our brothers and sons, and awaiting the day when this joy will be given us, We yet again attest Our affection and Our tenderness towards all the Catholics spread through all the lands of the East, to all Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, bishops, clergy and laity, and We confer on them Our apostolic blessing.

Given in Rome, at St. Mary Major, January 6, 1848, in the second year of Our pontificate.

Pope Pius IX

Encyclical of the Eastern Patriarchs, 1848

A Reply to the Epistle of Pope Pius IX, "to the Easterns"

To All the Bishops Everywhere, Beloved in the Holy Ghost, Our Venerable, Most Dear Brethren; and to their Most Pious Clergy; and to All the Genuine Orthodox Sons of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church: Brotherly Salutation in the Holy Spirit, and Every Good From God, and Salvation.

The holy, evangelical and divine Gospel of Salvation should be set forth by all in its original simplicity, and should evermore be believed in its unadulterated purity, even the same as it was revealed to His holy Apostles by our Savior, who for this very cause, descending from the bosom of God the Father, *made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant* (Phil. ii. 7); even the same, also, as those Apostles, who were ear and eye witnesses, sounded it forth, like clear-toned trumpets, to all that are under the sun (*for their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words into the ends of the world*); and, last of all, the very same as the many great and glorious Fathers of the Catholic Church in all parts of the earth, who heard those Apostolic voices, both by their synodical and their individual teachings handed it down to all everywhere, and even unto us. But the Prince of Evil, that spiritual enemy of man's salvation, as formerly in Eden, craftily assuming the pretext of profitable counsel, he made man to become a transgressor of the divinely-spoken command. so in the spiritual Eden, the Church of God, he has from time to time beguiled many; and, mixing the deleterious drugs of heresy with the clear streams of orthodox doctrine, gives of the potion to drink to many of the innocent who live unguardedly, not *giving earnest heed to the things they have heard* (Heb. ii. 10), *and to what they have been told by their fathers* (Deut. xxxii. 7), in accordance with the Gospel and in agreement with the ancient Doctors; and who, imagining that the preached and written Word of the LORD and the perpetual

witness of His Church are not sufficient for their souls' salvation, impiously seek out novelties, as we change the fashion of our garments, embracing a counterfeit of the evangelical doctrine.

2. Hence have arisen manifold and monstrous heresies, which the Catholic Church, even from her infancy, *taking unto her the whole armor of God, and assuming the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. vi. 13-17,)* has been compelled to combat. She has triumphed over all unto this day, and she will triumph for ever, being manifested as mightier and more illustrious after each struggle.

3. Of these heresies, some already have entirely failed, some are in decay, some have wasted away, some yet flourish in a greater or less degree vigorous until the time of their return to the Faith, while others are reproduced to run their course from their birth to their destruction. For being the miserable cogitations and devices of miserable men, both one and the other, struck with the thunderbolt of the anathema of the seven Ecumenical Councils, shall vanish away, though they may last a thousand years; for the orthodoxy of the Catholic and Apostolic Church, by the living Word of God, alone endures for ever, according to the infallible promise of the LORD: *the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (Matt. xviii. 18). Certainly, the mouths of ungodly and heretical men, however bold, however plausible and fair-speaking, however smooth they may be, will not prevail against the orthodox doctrine winning, its way silently and without noise. But, *wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?* (Jer. xii. 1.) *Why are the ungodly exalted and lifted up as the cedars of Lebanon* (Ps. xxxvii. 35), to defile the peaceful worship of God? The reason of this is mysterious, and the Church, though daily praying that this cross, this messenger of Satan, may depart from her, ever hears from the Lord: *My grace is sufficient for thee, my strength is made perfect in weakness* (2. Cor. xii. 9). Wherefore she gladly *glories in her*

infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon her, and that they which are approved may be made manifest (1. Cor. x. 19).

4. Of these heresies diffused, with what sufferings the LORD hath known, over a great part of the world, was formerly Arianism, and at present is the Papacy. This, too, as the former has become extinct, although now flourishing, shall not endure, but pass away and be cast down, and a great voice from heaven shall cry: *It is cast down* (Rev. xii. 10).

5. The new doctrine, that "the Holy Ghost proceedeth from the Father and the Son," is contrary to the memorable declaration of our LORD, emphatically made respecting it: *which proceedeth from the Father* (John xv. 26), and contrary to the universal Confession of the Catholic Church as witnessed by the seven Ecumenical Councils, uttering "which proceedeth from the Father." (Symbol of Faith).

i. This novel opinion destroys the oneness from the One cause, and the diverse origin of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity, both of which are witnessed to in the Gospel.

ii. Even into the divine Hypostases or Persons of the Trinity, of equal power and equally to be adored, it introduces diverse and unequal relations, with a confusion or commingling of them.

iii. It reproaches as imperfect, dark, and difficult to be understood, the previous Confession of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

iv. It censures the holy Fathers of the first Ecumenical Synod of Nice and of the second Ecumenical Synod at Constantinople, as imperfectly expressing what relates to the Son and Holy Ghost, as if they had been silent respecting the peculiar property of each Person of the Godhead,

when it was necessary that all their divine properties should be expressed against the Arians and Macedonians.

v. It reproaches the Fathers of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh Ecumenical Councils, which had published over the world a divine Creed, perfect and complete, and interdicted under dread anathemas and penalties not removed, all addition, or diminution, or alteration, or variation in the smallest particular of it, by themselves or any whomsoever. Yet was this quickly to be corrected and augmented, and consequently the whole theological doctrine of the Catholic Fathers was to be subjected to change, as if, forsooth, a new property even in regard to the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity had been revealed.

vi. It clandestinely found an entrance at first in the Churches of the West, "a wolf in sheep's clothing," that is, under the signification not of *procession*, according to the Greek meaning in the Gospel and the Creed, but under the signification of *mission*, as Pope Martin explained it to the Confessor Maximus, and as Anastasius the Librarian explained it to John VIII.

vii. It exhibits incomparable boldness, acting without authority, and forcibly puts a false stamp upon the Creed, which is the common inheritance of Christianity.

viii. It has introduced huge disturbances into the peaceful Church of God, and divided the nations.

ix. It was publicly proscribed, at its first promulgation, by two ever-to-be-remembered Popes, Leo III and John VIII, the latter of whom, in his epistle to the blessed Photius, classes with Judas those who first brought the interpolation into the Creed.

x. It has been condemned by many Holy Councils of the four Patriarchs of the East.

xi. It was subjected to anathema, as a novelty and augmentation of the Creed, by the eighth Ecumenical Council, congregated at Constantinople for the pacification of the Eastern and Western Churches.

xii. As soon as it was introduced into the Churches of the West it brought forth disgraceful fruits, bringing with it, little by little, other novelties, for the most part contrary to the express commands of our Savior in the Gospel—commands which till its entrance into the Churches were closely observed. Among these novelties may be numbered sprinkling instead of baptism, denial of the divine Cup to the Laity, elevation of one and the same bread broken, the use of wafers, unleavened instead of real bread, the disuse of the Benediction in the Liturgies, even of the sacred Invocation of the All-holy and Consecrating Spirit, the abandonment of the old Apostolic Mysteries of the Church, such as not anointing baptized infants, or their not receiving the Eucharist, the exclusion of married men from the Priesthood, the infallibility of the Pope and his claim as Vicar of Christ, and the like. Thus it was that the interpolation led to the setting aside of the old Apostolic pattern of well nigh all the Mysteries and all doctrine, a pattern which the ancient, holy, and orthodox Church of Rome kept, when she was the most honored part of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

xiii. It drove the theologians of the West, as its defenders, since they had no ground either in Scripture or the Fathers to countenance heretical teachings, not only into misrepresentations of the Scriptures, such as are seen in none of the Fathers of the Holy Catholic Church, but also into adulterations of the sacred and pure writings of the Fathers alike of the East and West.

xiv. It seemed strange, unheard of, and blasphemous, even to those reputed Christian communions, which, before its origin, had been for other just causes for ages cut off from the Catholic fold.

xv. It has not yet been even plausibly defended out of the Scriptures, or with the least reason out of the Fathers, from the accusations brought against it, notwithstanding all the zeal and efforts of its supporters. The doctrine bears all the marks of error arising out of its nature and peculiarities. All erroneous doctrine touching the Catholic truth of the Blessed Trinity, and the origin of the divine Persons, and the subsistence of the Holy Ghost, is and is called heresy, and they who so hold are deemed heretics, according to the sentence of St. Damasus, Pope of Rome, who says: "If any one rightly holds concerning the Father and the Son, yet holds not rightly of the Holy Ghost, he is an heretic" (Cath. Conf. of Faith which Pope Damasus sent to Paulinus, Bishop of Thessalonica). Wherefore the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, following in the steps of the holy Fathers, both Eastern and Western, proclaimed of old to our progenitors and again teaches today synodically, that the said novel doctrine of the Holy Ghost proceeding from the Father and the Son is essentially heresy, and its maintainers, whoever they be, are heretics, according to the sentence of Pope St. Damasus, and that the congregations of such are also heretical, and that all spiritual communion in worship of the orthodox sons of the Catholic Church with such is unlawful. Such is the force of the seventh Canon of the third Ecumenical Council.

6. This heresy, which has united to itself many innovations, as has been said, appeared about the middle of the seventh century, at first and secretly, and then under various disguises, over the Western Provinces of Europe, until by degrees, creeping along for four or five centuries, it

obtained precedence over the ancient orthodoxy of those parts, through the heedlessness of Pastors and the countenance of Princes. Little by little it overspread not only the hitherto orthodox Churches of Spain, but also the German, and French, and Italian Churches, whose orthodoxy at one time was sounded throughout the world, with whom our divine Fathers such as the great Athanasius and heavenly Basil conferred, and whose sympathy and fellowship with us until the seventh Ecumenical Council, preserved unharmed the doctrine of the Catholic and Apostolic Church. But in process of time, by envy of the devil, the novelties respecting the sound and orthodox doctrine of the Holy Ghost, the blasphemy of whom shall not be forgiven unto men either in this world or the next, according to the saying of our Lord (Matt. xii. 32), and others that succeeded respecting the divine Mysteries, particularly that of the world-saving Baptism, and the Holy Communion, and the Priesthood, like prodigious births, overspread even Old Rome; and thus sprung, by assumption of special distinctions in the Church as a badge and title, the Papacy. Some of the Bishops of that City, styled Popes, for example Leo III and John VIII, did indeed, as has been said, denounce the innovation, and published the denunciation to the world, the former by those silver plates, the latter by his letter to the holy Photius at the eighth Ecumenical Council, and another to Sphendopulcrus, by the hands of Methodius, Bishop of Moravia. The greater part, however, of their successors, the Popes of Rome, enticed by the antisynodical privileges offered them for the oppression of the Churches of God, and finding in them much worldly advantage, and "much gain," and conceiving a Monarchy in the Catholic Church and a monopoly of the gifts of the Holy Ghost, changed the ancient worship at will, separating themselves by novelties from the old received Christian Polity. Nor did they cease their endeavors, by lawless projects (as veritable history assures us), to entice the other four

Patriarchates into their apostasy from Orthodoxy, and so subject the Catholic Church to the whims and ordinances of men.

7. Our illustrious predecessors and fathers, with united labor and counsel, seeing the evangelical doctrine received from the Fathers to be trodden under foot, and the robe of our Savior woven from above to be torn by wicked hands, and stimulated by fatherly and brotherly love, wept for the desolation of so many Christians for *whom Christ died*. They exercised much zeal and ardor, both synodically and individually, in order that the orthodox doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church being saved, they might knit together as far as they were able that which had been rent; and like approved physicians they consulted together for the safety of the suffering member, enduring many tribulations, and contempts, and persecutions, if haply the Body of Christ might not be divided, or the definitions of the divine and august Synods be made of none effect. But veracious history has transmitted to us the relentlessness of the Western perseverance in error. These illustrious men proved indeed on this point the truth of the words of our holy father Basil the sublime, when he said, from experience, concerning the Bishops of the West, and particularly of the Pope: "They neither know the truth nor endure to learn it, striving against those who tell them the truth, and strengthening themselves in their heresy" (to Eusebius of Samosata). Thus, after a first and second brotherly admonition, knowing their impenitence, shaking them off and avoiding them, they gave them over to their reprobate mind. "War is better than peace, apart from God," as said our holy father Gregory, concerning the Arians. From that time there has been no spiritual communion between us and them; for they have with their own hands dug deep the chasm between themselves and Orthodoxy.

8. Yet the Papacy has not on this account ceased to annoy the peaceful Church of God, but sending out everywhere so-called missionaries, men of reprobate minds, it *compasses land and sea to make one proselyte*, to deceive one of the Orthodox, to corrupt the doctrine of our LORD, to adulterate, by addition, the divine Creed of our holy Faith, to prove the Baptism which God gave us superfluous, the communion of the Cup void of sacred efficacy, and a thousand other things which the demon of novelty dictated to the all-daring Schoolmen of the Middle Ages and to the Bishops of the elder Rome, venturing all things through lust of power. Our blessed predecessors and fathers, in their piety, though tried and persecuted in many ways and means, within and without, directly and indirectly, "yet confident in the LORD," were able to save and transmit to us this inestimable inheritance of our fathers, which we too, by the help of God, will transmit as a rich treasure to the generations to come, even to the end of the world. But notwithstanding this, the Papists do not cease to this day, nor will cease, according to wont, to attack Orthodoxy,—a daily living reproach which they have before their eyes, being deserters from the faith of their fathers. Would that they made these aggressions against the heresy which has overspread and mastered the West. For who doubts that had their zeal for the overthrow of Orthodoxy been employed for the overthrow of heresy and novelties, agreeable to the God-loving counsels of Leo III and John VIII, those glorious and last Orthodox Popes, not a trace of it, long ago, would have been remembered under the sun, and we should now be saying the same things, according to the Apostolic promise. But the zeal of those who succeeded them was not for the protection of the Orthodox Faith, in conformity with the zeal worthy of all remembrance which was in Leo III., now among the blessed.

9. In a measure the aggressions of the later Popes in their own persons had ceased, and were carried on only by means of missionaries. But lately, Pius IX., becoming Bishop of Rome and

proclaimed Pope in 1847, published on the sixth of January, in this present year, an Encyclical Letter addressed to the Easterns, consisting of twelve pages in the Greek version, which his emissary has disseminated, like a plague coming from without, within our Orthodox Fold. In this Encyclical, he addresses those who at different times have gone over from different Christian Communions, and embraced the Papacy, and of course are favorable to him, extending his arguments also to the Orthodox, either particularly or without naming them; and, citing our divine and holy Fathers (p. 3, 1.14-18; p. 4, 1.19; p. 9, 1.6; and pp. 17, 23), he manifestly calumniates them and us their successors and descendants: them, as if they admitted readily the Papal commands and rescripts without question because issuing from the Popes is undoubted arbiters of the Catholic Church; us, as unfaithful to their examples (for thus he trespasses on the Fold committed to us by God), as severed from our Fathers, as careless of our sacred trusts, and of the soul's salvation of our spiritual children. Usurping as his own possession the Catholic Church of Christ, by occupancy, as he boasts, of the Episcopal Throne of St. Peter, he desires to deceive the more simple into apostasy from Orthodoxy, choosing for the basis of all theological instruction these paradoxical words (p. 10, 1.29): "nor is there any reason why ye refuse a return to the true Church and Communion with this my holy Throne."

10. Each one of our brethren and sons in Christ who have been piously brought up and instructed, wisely regarding the wisdom given him from God, will decide that the words of the present Bishop of Rome, like those of his schismatical predecessors, are not words of peace, as he affirms (p. 7, 1.8), and of benevolence, but words of deceit and guile, tending to self-aggrandizement, agreeably to the practice of his antisynodical predecessors. We are therefore sure, that even as heretofore, so hereafter the Orthodox will not be beguiled. For the word of our

LORD is sure (John x. 5), *A stranger will they not follow, but flee from him, for they know not the voice of strangers.*

11. For all this we have esteemed it our paternal and brotherly need, and a sacred duty, by our present admonition to confirm you in the Orthodoxy you hold from your forefathers, and at the same time point out the emptiness of the syllogisms of the Bishop of Rome, of which he is manifestly himself aware. For not from his Apostolic Confession does he glorify his Throne, but from his Apostolic Throne seeks to establish his dignity, and from his dignity, his Confession. The truth is the other way. The Throne of Rome is esteemed that of St. Peter by a single tradition, but not from Holy Scripture, where the claim is in favor of Antioch, whose Church is therefore witnessed by the great Basil (Ep. 48 Athan.) to be "the most venerable of all the Churches in the world." Still more, the second Ecumenical Council, writing to a Council of the West (to the most honorable and religious brethren and fellow-servants, Damasus, Ambrose, Britto, Valerian, and others), witnesseth, saying: "The oldest and truly Apostolic Church of Antioch, in Syria, where first the honored name of Christians was used." We say then that the Apostolic Church of Antioch had no right of exemption from being judged according to divine Scripture and synodical declarations, though truly venerated for the throne of St. Peter. But what do we say? The blessed Peter, even in his own person, was judged before all for the truth of the Gospel, and, as Scripture declares, was found blamable and not walking uprightly. What opinion is to be formed of those who glory and pride themselves solely in the possession of his Throne, so great in their eyes? Nay, the sublime Basil the great, the Ecumenical teacher of Orthodoxy in the Catholic Church, to whom the Bishops of Rome are obliged to refer us (p. 8, 1.31), has clearly and explicitly above (7) shown us what estimation we ought to have of the judgments of the inaccessible Vatican:—"They neither," he says, "know the truth, nor endure to learn it,

striving against those who tell them the truth, and strengthening themselves in their heresy." So that these our holy Fathers whom his Holiness the Pope, worthily admiring as lights and teachers even of the West, accounts as belonging to us, and advises us (p. 8) to follow, teach us not to judge Orthodoxy from the holy Throne, but the Throne itself and him that is on the Throne by the sacred Scriptures, by Synodical decrees and limitations, and by the Faith which has been preached, even the Orthodoxy of continuous teaching. Thus did our Fathers judge and condemn Honorius, Pope of Rome, and Dioscorus, Pope of Alexandria, and Macedonius and Nestorius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, and Peter Gnapheus, Patriarch of Antioch, with others. For if the *abomination of desolation stood in the Holy Place*, why not innovation and heresy upon a holy Throne? Hence is exhibited in a brief compass the weakness and feebleness of the efforts in behalf of the despotism of the Pope of Rome. For, unless the Church of Christ was founded upon the immovable rock of St. Peter's Confession, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God* (which was the answer of the Apostles in common, when the question was put to them, *Whom say ye that I am?* (Matt. xvi. 15,) as the Fathers, both Eastern and Western, interpret the passage to us), the Church was built upon a slippery foundation, even on Cephias himself, not to say on the Pope, who, after monopolizing the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, has made such an administration of them as is plain from history. But our divine Fathers, with one accord, teach that the sense of the thrice-repeated command, *Feed my sheep*, implied no prerogative in St. Peter over the other Apostles, least of all in his successors. It was a simple restoration to his Apostleship, from which he had fallen by his thrice-repeated denial. St. Peter himself appears to have understood the intention of the thrice-repeated question of our Lord: *Lovest thou Me*, and *more, and than these?* (John xxi. 16;) for, calling to mind the words, *Thou all shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended* (Matt. xxvi. 33), he was grieved because He said

unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? But his successors, from self-interest, understand the expression as indicative of St. Peter's more ready mind.

12. His Holiness the Pope says (p. viii. 1.12.) that our LORD said to Peter (Luke xxii. 32), *I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.* Our LORD so prayed because Satan had sought to overthrow the faith of all the disciples, but the LORD allowed him Peter only, chiefly because he had uttered words of boasting, and justified himself above the rest (Matt. xxvi. 33): *Though all shall be offended, because of thee, yet will I never be offended.* The permission to Satan was but temporary. *He began to curse and to swear: I know not the man.* So weak is human nature, left to itself. *The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.* It was but temporary, that, coming again to himself by his return in tears of repentance, he might the rather strengthen his brethren who had neither perjured themselves nor denied. Oh! the wise judgment of the LORD! How divine and mysterious was the last night of our Savior upon earth! That sacred Supper is believed to be consecrated to this day in every Church: *This do in remembrance of me* (Luke xxii. 19), and *As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the LORD's death till he come* (1 Cor. xi. 26). Of the brotherly love thus earnestly commended to us by the common Master, saying, *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciple, if ye have love one to another* (John xiii. 35), have the Popes first broken the stamp and seal, supporting and receiving heretical novelties, contrary to the things delivered to us and canonically confirmed by our Teachers and Fathers in common. This love acts at this day with power in the souls of Christian people, and particularly in their leaders. We boldly avow before God and men, that the prayer of our Savior (p. ix. 1.43) to God and His Father for the common love and unity of Christians in the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, in which we believe, *that they may be one, ever as we are one* (John xvii. 22), worketh in us no less than in

his Holiness. Our brotherly love and zeal meet that of his Holiness, with only this difference, that in us it worketh for the covenanted preservation of the pure, undefiled, divine, spotless, and perfect Creed of the Christian Faith, in conformity to the voice of the Gospel and the decrees of the seven holy Ecumenical Synods and the teachings of the ever-existing Catholic Church: but worketh in his Holiness to prop and strengthen the authority and dignity of them that sit on the Apostolic Throne, and their new doctrine. Behold then, the head and front, so to speak, of all the differences and disagreements that have happened between us and them, and the middle wall of partition, which we hope will be taken away in the time of his Holiness, and by the aid of his renowned wisdom, according to the promise of God (St. John x. 16): *"Other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice (Who proceedeth from the Father ")*. Let it be said then, in the third place, that if it be supposed, according to the words of his Holiness, that this prayer of our LORD for Peter when about to deny and perjure himself, remained attached and united to the Throne of Peter, and is transmitted with power to those who from time to time sit upon it, although, as has before been said, nothing contributes to confirm the opinion (as we are strikingly assured from the example of the blessed Peter himself, even after the descent of the Holy Ghost, yet are we convinced from the words of our LORD, that the time will come when that divine prayer concerning the denial of Peter, "that his faith might not fail for ever" will operate also in some one of the successors of his Throne, who will also weep, as he did, bitterly, and being sometime converted will strengthen us, his brethren, still more in the Orthodox Confession, which we hold from our forefathers;—and would that his Holiness might be this true successor of the blessed Peter! To this our humble prayer, what hinders that we should add our sincere and hearty Counsel in the name of the Holy Catholic Church? We dare not say, as does his Holiness (p. x. 1.22), that it should be done "without any delay;" but without

haste, utter mature consideration, and also, if need be, after consultation with the more wise, religious, truth-loving, and prudent of the Bishops, Theologians, and Doctors, to be found at the present day, by God's good Providence, in every nation of the West.

13. His Holiness says that the Bishop of Lyons, St. Irenaeus, writes in praise of the Church of Rome: "That the whole Church, namely, the faithful from everywhere, must come together in that Church, because of its Primacy, in which Church the tradition, given by the Apostles, has in all respects been observed by the faithful everywhere." Although this saint says by no means what the followers of the Vatican would make out, yet even granting their interpretation, we reply: Who denies that the ancient Roman Church was Apostolic and Orthodox? None of us will question that it was a model of orthodoxy. We will specially add, for its greater praise, from the historian Sozomen (Hist. Eccl. lib. iii. cap. 12), the passage, which his Holiness has overlooked, respecting the mode by which for a time she was enabled to preserve the orthodoxy which we praise:—"For, as everywhere," saith Sozomen, "the Church throughout the West, *being guided purely by the doctrines of the Fathers*, was delivered from contention and deception concerning these things." Would any of the Fathers or ourselves deny her canonical privilege in the rank of the hierarchy, *so long as she was guided purely by the doctrines of the Fathers*, walking by the plain rule of Scripture and the holy Synods! But at present we do not find preserved in her the dogma of the Blessed Trinity according to the Creed of the holy Fathers assembled first in Nicea and afterwards in Constantinople, which the other five Ecumenical Councils confessed and confirmed with such anathemas on those who adulterated it in the smallest particular, as if they had thereby destroyed it. Nor do we find the Apostolical pattern of holy Baptism, nor the Invocation of the consecrating Spirit upon the holy elements: but we see in that Church the eucharistic Cup, heavenly drink, considered superfluous, (what profanity!) and very many other

things, unknown not only to our holy Fathers, who were always entitled the catholic, clear rule and index of Orthodoxy, as his Holiness, revering the truth, himself teaches (p. vi), but also unknown to the ancient holy Fathers of the West. We see that very primacy, for which his Holiness now contends with all his might, as did his predecessors, transformed from a brotherly character and hierarchical privilege into a lordly superiority. What then is to be thought of his unwritten traditions, if the written have undergone such a change and alteration for the worse ? Who is so bold and confident in the dignity of the Apostolic Throne, as to dare to say that if our holy Father, Sr. Irenaeus, were alive again, seeing it was fallen from the ancient and primitive teaching in so many most essential and catholic articles of Christianity, he would not be himself the first to oppose the novelties and self-sufficient constitutions of that Church which was lauded by him as *guided purely by the doctrines of the Fathers*? For instance, when he saw the Roman Church not only rejecting from her Liturgical Canon, according to the suggestion of the Schoolmen, the very ancient and Apostolic invocation of the Consecrating Spirit, and miserably mutilating the Sacrifice in its most essential part, but also urgently hastening to cut it out from the Liturgies of other Christian Communion also,—his Holiness slanderously asserting, in a manner so unworthy of the Apostolic Throne on which he boasts himself, that it "crept in after the division between the East and West" (p. xi. 1.11)—what would not the holy Father say respecting this novelty? Irenaeus assures us (lib. iv. c. 34) "that bread, from the ground, receiving the evocation of God, is no longer common bread," etc., meaning by "evocation" *invocation*: for that Irenaeus believed the Mystery of the Sacrifice to be consecrated by means of this invocation is especially remarked even by Franciscus Feu-Ardentius, of the order of popish monks called Minorites, who in 1639 edited the writings of that saint with comments, who says (lib. i. c. 18, p. 114,) that Irenaeus teaches "that the bread and mixed cup become the true Body and Blood of

Christ by the words of invocation." Or, hearing of the vicarial and appellate jurisdiction of the Pope, what would not the Saint say, who, for a small and almost indifferent question concerning the celebration of Easter (Euseb. Eccl. Hist. v. 26), so boldly and victoriously opposed and defeated the violence of Pope Victor in the free Church of Christ? Thus he who is cited by his Holiness as a witness of the primacy of the Roman Church, shows that its dignity is not that of a lordship, nor even appellate, to which St. Peter himself was never ordained, but is a brotherly privilege in the Catholic Church, and an honor assigned the Popes on account of the greatness and privilege of the City. Thus, also, the fourth Ecumenical Council, for the preservation of the gradation in rank of Churches canonically established by the third Ecumenical Council (Canon 8),—following the second (Canon 3), as that again followed the first (Canon 6), which called the appellate jurisdiction of the Pope over the West a *Custom*,—thus uttered its determination: "On account of that City being the Imperial City, the Fathers have with reason given it prerogatives" (Canon 28). Here is nothing said of the Pope's special monopoly of the Apostolicity of St. Peter, still less of a vicarship in Rome's Bishops, and an universal Pastorate. This deep silence in regard to such great privileges—nor only so, but the reason assigned for the primacy, not "*Feed my sheep*," not "*On this rock will I build my Church*," but simply old Custom, and the City being the Imperial City; and these things, not from the LORD, but from the Fathers—will seem, we are sure, a great paradox to his Holiness entertaining other ideas of his prerogatives. The paradox will be the greater, since, as we shall see, he greatly honors the said fourth Ecumenical Synod as one to be found a witness for his Throne; and St. Gregory, the eloquent, called the Great (lib. i. Ep. 25), was wont to speak of the four (Ecumenical Councils [not the Roman See] as the four Gospels, and the four-sided stone on which the Catholic Church is built.

14. His Holiness says (p. ix. 1.12) that the Corinthians, divided among themselves, referred the matter to Clement, Pope of Rome, who wrote to them his decision on the case; and they so prized his decision that they read it in the Churches. But this event is a very weak support for the Papal authority in the house of God. For Rome being then the center of the Imperial Province and the chief City, in which the Emperors lived, it was proper that any question of importance, as history shows that of the Corinthians to have been, should be decided there, especially if one of the contending parties ran thither for external aid: as is done even to this day. The Patriarchs of Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem, when unexpected points of difficulty arise, write to the Patriarch of Constantinople, because of its being the seat of Empire, as also on account of its synodical privileges; and if this brotherly aid shall rectify that which should be rectified, it is well; but if not, the matter is reported to the province, according to the established system. But this brotherly agreement in Christian faith is not purchased by the servitude of the Churches of God. Let this be our answer also to the examples of a fraternal and proper championship of the privileges of Julius and Innocent Bishops of Rome, by St. Athanasius the Great and St. John Chrysostom, referred to by his Holiness (p. ix. 1. 6, 17), for which their successors now seek to recompense us by adulterating the divine Creed. Yet was Julius himself indignant against some for "disturbing the Churches by not maintaining the doctrines of Nice" (Soz. Hist. Ec. lib. iii. c. 7), and threatening (id.) excommunication, "if they ceased not their innovations." In the case of the Corinthians, moreover, it is to be remarked that the Patriarchal Thrones being then but three, Rome was the nearer and more accessible to the Corinthians, to which, therefore, it was proper to have resort. In all this we see nothing extraordinary, nor any proof of the despotic power of the Pope in the free Church of God.

15. But, finally, his Holiness says (p. ix. l.12) that the fourth Ecumenical Council (which by mistake he quite transfers from Chalcedon to Carthage), when it read the epistle of Pope Leo I, cried out, "Peter has thus spoken by Leo." It was so indeed. But his Holiness ought not to overlook how, and after what examination, our fathers cried out, as they did, in praise of Leo. Since however his Holiness, consulting brevity, appears to have omitted this most necessary point, and the manifest proof that an Ecumenical Council is not only above the Pope but above any Council of his, we will explain to the public the matter as it really happened. Of more than six hundred fathers assembled in the Council of Chalcedon, about two hundred of the wisest were appointed by the Council to examine both as to language and sense the said epistle of Leo; nor only so, but to give in writing and with their signatures their own judgment upon it, whether it were orthodox or not. These, about two hundred judgments and resolution on the epistle, as chiefly found in the Fourth Session of the said holy Council in such terms as the following:—

"Maximus of Antioch in Syria said: 'The epistle of the holy Leo, Archbishop of Imperial Rome, agrees with the decisions of the three hundred and eighteen holy fathers at Nice, and the hundred and fifty at Constantinople, which is new Rome, and with the faith expounded at Ephesus by the most holy Bishop Cyril: and I have subscribed it.'"

And again:

"Theodoret, the most religious Bishop of Cyrus: 'The epistle of the most holy Archbishop, the lord Leo, agrees with the faith established at Nice by the holy and blessed fathers, and with the symbol of faith expounded at Constantinople by the hundred and fifty, and with the epistles of the blessed Cyril. And accepting it, I have subscribed the said epistle.'"

And thus all in succession: "The epistle corresponds," "the epistle is consonant, "the epistle agrees in sense," and the like. After such great and very severe scrutiny in comparing it with former holy Councils, and a full conviction of the correctness of the meaning, and not merely because it was the epistle of the Pope, they cried aloud, ungrudgingly, the exclamation on which his Holiness now vaunts himself: But if his Holiness had sent us statements concordant and in unison with the seven holy Ecumenical Councils, instead of boasting of the piety of his predecessors lauded by our predecessors and fathers in an Ecumenical Council, he might justly have gloried in his own orthodoxy, declaring his own goodness instead of that of his fathers. Therefore let his Holiness be assured, that if, even now, he will write us such things as two hundred fathers on investigation and inquiry shall find consonant and agreeing with the said former Councils, then, we say, he shall hear from us sinners today, not only, "Peter has so spoken," or anything of like honor, but this also, "Let the holy hand be kissed which has wiped away the tears of the Catholic Church."

16. And surely we have a right to expect from the prudent forethought of his Holiness, a work so worthy the true successor of St. Peter, of Leo I, and also of Leo III, who for security of the orthodox faith engraved the divine Creed unaltered upon imperishable plates—a work which will unite the churches of the West to the holy Catholic Church, in which the canonical chief seat of his Holiness, and the seats of all the Bishops of the West remain empty and ready to be occupied. For the Catholic Church, awaiting the conversion of the shepherds who have fallen off from her with their flocks, does not separate in name only, those who have been privily introduced to the rulership by the action of others, thus making little of the Priesthood. But we are expecting the "word of consolation," and hope that he, as wrote St. Basil to St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (Epis. b6), will "tread again the ancient footprints of the fathers." Not without great astonishment

have we read the said Encyclical letter to the Easterns, in which we see with deep grief of soul his Holiness, famed for prudence, speaking like his predecessors in schism, words that urge upon us the adulteration of our pure holy Creed, on which the Ecumenical Councils have set their seal; and doing violence to the sacred Liturgies, whose heavenly structure alone, and the names of those who framed them, and their tone of reverend antiquity, and the stamp that was placed upon them by the Seventh Ecumenical Synod (Act vi.), should have paralyzed him, and made him to turn aside the sacrilegious and all-daring hand that has thus smitten the King of Glory. From these things we estimate into what an unspeakable labyrinth of wrong and incorrigible sin of revolution the papacy has thrown even the wiser and more godly Bishops of the Roman Church, so that, in order to preserve the innocent, and therefore valued vicarial dignity, as well as the despotic primacy and the things depending upon it, they know no other means shall to insult the most divine and sacred things, daring everything for that one end. Clothing themselves, in words, with pious reverence for "the most venerable antiquity" (p. xi. 1.16), in reality there remains, within, the innovating temper; and yet his Holiness really hears hard upon himself when he says that we "must cast from us everything that has crept in among us since the Separation," (!) while he and his have spread the poison of their innovation even into the Supper of our LORD. His Holiness evidently takes it for granted that in the Orthodox Church the same thing has happened which he is conscious has happened in the Church of Rome since the rise of the Papacy: to wit, a sweeping change in all the Mysteries, and corruption from scholastic subtleties, a reliance on which must suffice as an equivalent for our sacred Liturgies and Mysteries and doctrines: yet all the while, forsooth, reverencing our "venerable antiquity," and all this by a condescension entirely Apostolic!—"without," as he says, "troubling us by any harsh conditions"! From such ignorance of the Apostolic and Catholic food on which we live emanates another sententious

declaration of his (p. vii. 1. 22): "It is not possible that unity of doctrine and sacred observance should be preserved among you," paradoxically ascribing to us the very misfortune from which he suffers at home; just as Pope Leo IX wrote to the blessed Michael Cerularius, accusing the Greeks of changing the Creed of the Catholic Church, without blushing either for his own honor or for the truth of history. We are persuaded that if his Holiness will call to mind ecclesiastical archaeology and history, the doctrine of the holy Fathers and the old Liturgies of France and Spain, and the Sacramentary of the ancient Roman Church, he will be struck with surprise on finding how many other monstrous daughters, now living, the Papacy has brought forth in the West: while Orthodoxy, with us, has preserved the Catholic Church as an incorruptible bride for her Bridegroom, although we have no temporal power, nor, as his Holiness says, any sacred "observances," but by the sole tie of love and affection to a common Mother are bound together in the unity of a faith sealed with the seven seals of the Spirit (Rev. v. 1), and by the seven Ecumenical Councils, and in obedience to the Truth. He will find, also, how many modern papistical doctrines and mysteries must be rejected as "commandments of men" in order that the Church of the West, which has introduced all sorts of novelties, may be changed back again to the immutable Catholic Orthodox faith of our common fathers. As his Holiness recognizes our common zeal in this faith, when he says (p. viii. 1.30), "let us take heed to the doctrine preserved by our forefathers," so he does well in instructing us (l. 31) to follow the old pontiffs and the faithful of the Eastern Metropolitans. What these thought of the doctrinal fidelity of the Archbishops of the elder Rome, and what idea we ought to have of them in the Orthodox Church, and in what manner we ought to receive their teachings, they have synodically given us an example (15), and the sublime Basil has well interpreted it (7). As to the supremacy, since

we are not setting forth a treatise, let the same great Basil present the matter in a few words, "I preferred to address myself to Him who is Head over them."

17. From all this, every one nourished in sound Catholic doctrine, particularly his Holiness, must draw the conclusion, how impious and anti-synodical it is to attempt the alteration of our doctrine and liturgies and other divine offices which are, and are proved to be, coeval with the preaching of Christianity: for which reason reverence was always bestowed on them, and they were confided in as pure even by the old orthodox Popes themselves, to whom these things were an inheritance in common with ourselves. How becoming and holy would be the mending of the innovations, the time of whose entrance in the Church of Rome we know in each case; for our illustrious fathers have testified from time to time against each novelty. But there are other reasons which should incline his Holiness to this change. First, because those things that are ours were once venerable to the Westerns, as having the same divine Offices and confessing the same Creed; but the novelties were not known to our Fathers, nor could they be shown in the writings of the orthodox Western Fathers, nor as having their origin either in antiquity or catholicity. Moreover, neither Patriarchs nor Councils could then have introduced novelties amongst us, because the protector of religion is the very body of the Church, even the people themselves, who desire their religious worship to be ever unchanged and of the same kind as that of their fathers: for as, after the Schism, many of the Popes and Latinizing Patriarchs made attempts that came to nothing even in the Western Church; and as, from time to time, either by fair means or foul, the Popes have commanded novelties for the sake of expediency (as they have explained to our fathers, although they were thus dismembering the Body of Christ): so now again the Pope, for the sake of a truly divine and most just expediency, forsooth (not mending the nets, but himself rending the garment of the Savior), dare to oppose the venerable things of antiquity,—

things well fitted to preserve religion, as his Holiness confesses (p. xi. l.16), and which he himself honors, as he says (lb. 1.16), together with his predecessors, for he repeats that memorable expression of one of those blessed predecessors (Celestine, writing to the third Ecumenical Council): "*Let novelty cease to attack antiquity.*" And let the Catholic Church enjoy this benefit from this so far blameless declaration of the Popes. It must by all means be confessed, that in such his attempt, even though Pius IX be eminent for wisdom and piety, and, as he says, for zeal after Christian unity in the Catholic Church, he will meet, within and without, with difficulties and toils. And here we must put his Holiness in mind, if he will excuse our boldness, of that portion of his letter (p. viii. L.32), "That in things which relate to the confession of our divine religion, nothing is to be feared, when we look to the glory of Christ, and the reward which awaits us in eternal life." It is incumbent on his Holiness to show before God and man, that, as prime mover of the counsel which pleases God, so is he a willing protector of the ill-treated evangelical and synodical truth, even to the sacrifice of his own interests, according to the Prophet (Is. lx. 17), *A ruler in peace and a bishop in righteousness*. So be it! But until there be this desired returning of the apostate Churches to the body of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, of which *Christ is the Head* (Eph. iv. 15), and each of us "*members in particular,*" all advice proceeding from them, and every officious exhortation tending to the dissolution of our pure faith handed down from the Fathers is condemned, as it ought to be, synodically, not only as suspicious and to be eschewed, but as impious and soul-destroying: and in this category, among the first we place the said *Encyclical to the Easterns* from Pope Pius IX, Bishop of the elder Rome; and such we proclaim it to be in the Catholic Church.

18. Wherefore, beloved brethren and fellow-ministers of our mediocrity, as always, so also now, particularly on this occasion of the publication of the said *Encyclical*, we hold it to be our

inexorable duty, in accordance with our patriarchal and synodical responsibility, in order that none may be lost to the divine fold of the Catholic Orthodox Church, the most holy Mother of us all, to encourage each other, and to urge you that, reminding one another of the words and exhortations of St. Paul to our holy predecessors when he summoned them to Ephesus, we reiterate to each other: *take heed, therefore, unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own Blood. For know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore, watch.* (Acts xx.28-31.) Then our predecessors and Fathers, hearing this divine charge, wept sore, and falling upon his neck, kissed him. Come, then, and let us, brethren, hearing him admonishing us with tears, fall in spirit, lamenting, upon his neck, and, kissing him, comfort him by our own firm assurance, that no one shall separate us from the love of Christ, no one mislead us from evangelical doctrine, no one entice us from the safe path of our fathers, as none was able to deceive them, by any degree of zeal which they manifested, who from time to time were raised up for this purpose by the tempter: so that at last we shall hear from the Master: *Well done, good and faithful servant*, receiving the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls, and of the reasonable flock over whom the Holy Ghost has made us shepherds.

19. This Apostolic charge and exhortation we have quoted for your sake, and address it to all the Orthodox congregation, wherever they be found settled on the earth, to the Priests and Abbots, to the Deacons and Monks, in a word, to all the Clergy and godly People, the rulers and the ruled, the rich and the poor, to parents and children, to teachers and scholars, to the educated and uneducated, to masters and servants, that we all, supporting and counseling each other, may *be*

able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For thus St. Peter the Apostle exhorts us (1 Pet.): *Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith.*

20. For our faith, brethren, is not of men nor by man, but by revelation of Jesus Christ, which the divine Apostles preached, the holy Ecumenical Councils confirmed, the greatest and wisest teachers of the world handed down in succession, and the shed blood of the holy martyrs ratified. *Let us hold fast to the confession* which we have received unadulterated from such men, turning away from every novelty as a suggestion of the devil. He that accepts a novelty reproaches with deficiency the preached Orthodox Faith. But that Faith has long ago been sealed in completeness, not to admit of diminution or increase, or any change whatever; and he who dares to do, or advise, or think of such a thing has already denied the faith of Christ, has already of his own accord been struck with an eternal anathema, for blaspheming the Holy Ghost as not having spoken fully in the Scriptures and through the Ecumenical Councils. This fearful anathema, brethren and sons beloved in Christ, we do not pronounce today, but our Savior first pronounced it (Matt. xii. 32): *Whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.* St. Paul pronounced the same anathema (Gal. i. 6): *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ, unto another Gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.* This same anathema the Seven Ecumenical Councils and the whole choir of God-serving fathers pronounced. All, therefore, innovating, either by heresy or schism, have voluntarily clothed themselves, according to the Psalm (cix. 18), (*"with a curse as with a garment,"*) whether they be Popes, or Patriarchs,

or Clergy, or Laity; nay, if any one, though an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. Thus our wise fathers, obedient to the soul-saving words of St. Paul, were established firm and steadfast in the faith handed down unbrokenly to them, and preserved it unchanged and uncontaminate in the midst of so many heresies, and have delivered it to us pure and undefiled, as it came pure from the mouth of the first servants of the Word. Let us, too, thus wise, transmit it, pure as we have received it, to coming generations, altering nothing, that they may be, as we are, full of confidence, and with nothing to be ashamed of when speaking of the faith of their forefathers.

21. Therefore, brethren, and sons beloved in the LORD, *having purified your souls in obeying the truth* (1 Pet. i. 22), *let us give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.* (Heb. ii. 1.) The faith and confession we have received is not one to be ashamed of, being taught in the Gospel from the mouth of our LORD, witnessed by the holy Apostles, by the seven sacred Ecumenical Councils, preached throughout the world, witnessed to by its very enemies, who, before they apostatized from orthodoxy to heresies, themselves held this same faith, or at least their fathers and fathers' fathers thus held it. It is witnessed to by continuous history, as triumphing over all the heresies which have persecuted or now persecute it, as ye see even to this day. The succession of our holy divine fathers and predecessors beginning from the Apostles, and those whom the Apostles appointed their successors, to this day, forming one unbroken chain, and joining hand to hand, keep fast the sacred inclosure of which the door is Christ, in which all the orthodox Flock is fed in the fertile pastures of the mystical Eden, and not in the pathless and rugged wilderness, as his Holiness supposes (p. 7.1.12). Our Church holds the infallible and genuine deposit of the Holy Scriptures, of the Old Testament a true and perfect version, of the New the divine original itself. The rites of

the sacred Mysteries, and especially those of the Divine Liturgy, are the same glorious and heartquickenings rites, handed down from the Apostles. No nation, no Christian communion, can boast of such Liturgies as those of James, Basil, Chrysostom. The august Ecumenical Councils, those seven pillars of the house of Wisdom, were organized in it and among us. This, our Church, holds the originals of their sacred definitions. The Chief Pastors in it, and the honorable Presbytery, and the monastic Order, preserve the primitive and pure dignity of the first ages of Christianity, in opinions, in polity, and even in the simplicity of their vestments. Yes! verily, "grievous wolves" have constantly attacked this holy fold, and are attacking it now, as we see for ourselves, according to the prediction of the Apostle, which shows that the true lambs of the great Shepherd are folded in it; but that Church has sung and shall sing forever: "*They compassed me about; yea, they compassed me about: but in the name of the Lord I will destroy them*" (Ps. cxviii. 11). Let us add one reflection, a painful one indeed, but useful in order to manifest and confirm the truth of our words:—All Christian nations whatsoever that are today seen calling upon the Name of Christ (not excepting either the West generally, or Rome herself, as we prove by the catalogue of her earliest Popes), were taught the true faith in Christ by our holy predecessors and fathers; and yet afterwards deceitful men, many of whom were shepherds, and chief shepherds too, of those nations, by wretched sophistries and heretical opinions dared to defile, alas! the orthodoxy of those nations, as veracious history informs us, and as St. Paul predicted.

22. Therefore, brethren, and ye our spiritual children, we acknowledge how great the favor and grace which God has bestowed upon our Orthodox Faith, and on His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, which, like a mother who is unsuspected of her husband, nourishes us as children of whom she is not ashamed, and who are excusable in our high-toned boldness

concerning *the hope that is in us*. But what shall we sinners render to the LORD *for all that He hath bestowed upon us*? Our bounteous LORD and God, who hath redeemed us by his own Blood, requires nothing else of us but the devotion of our whole soul and heart to the blameless, holy faith of our fathers, and love and affection to the Orthodox Church, which has regenerated us not with a novel sprinkling, but with the divine washing of Apostolic Baptism. She it is that nourishes us, according to the eternal covenant of our Savior, with His own precious Body, and abundantly, as a true Mother, gives us to drink of that precious Blood poured out for us and for the salvation of the world. Let us then encompass her in spirit, as the young their parent bird, wherever on earth we find ourselves, in the north or south, or east, or west. Let us fix our eyes and thoughts upon her divine countenance and her most glorious beauty. Let us take hold with both our hands on her shining robe which the Bridegroom, "altogether lovely," has with His own undefiled hands thrown around her, when He redeemed her from the bondage of error, and adorned her as an eternal Bride for Himself. Let us feel in our own souls the mutual grief of the children-loving mother and the mother-loving children, when it is seen that men of wolfish minds and making gain of souls are zealous in plotting how they may lead her captive, or tear the lambs from their mothers. Let us, Clergy as well as Laity, cherish this feeling most intensely now, when the unseen adversary of our salvation, combining his fraudulent arts (p. xi. 1. 2-25), employs such powerful instrumentalities, and walketh about everywhere, as saith St. Peter, *seeking whom he may devour*; and when in this way, in which we walk peacefully and innocently, he sets his deceitful snares.

23. Now, the God of peace, "that brought again from the dead that great Shepherd of the sheep," "He that keepeth Israel," who "shall neither slumber nor sleep," "keep your hearts and minds," "and direct your ways to every good work."

Peace and joy be with you in the LORD.

May, 1848, Indiction 6.

+ ANTHIMOS, by the Mercy of God, Archbishop of Constantinople, new Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, a beloved brother in Christ our God, and suppliant.

+ HIEROTHEUS, by the Mercy of God, Patriarch of Alexandria and of all Egypt, a beloved brother in Christ our God, and suppliant.

+ METHODIOS, by the Mercy of God, Patriarch of the great City of God, Antioch, and of all Anatolia, a beloved brother in Christ our God, and suppliant.

+ CYRIL, by the Mercy of God, Patriarch of Jerusalem and of all Palestine, a beloved brother in Christ our God, and suppliant.

The Holy Synod in Constantinople:

+ PAISIUS OF CAESAREA

+ ANTHIMUS OF EPHESUS

+ DIONYSIUS OF HERACLEA

+ JOACHIM OF CYZICUS

+ DIONYSIUS OF NICODEMIA

+ HIEROTHEUS OF CHALCEDON

+ NEOPHYTUS OF DERCI

+ GERASIMUS OF ADRIANOPE

+ CYRIL OF NEOCAESAREA

+ THEOCLETUS OF BEREIA

+ MELETIUS OF PISIDIA

+ ATHANASIOS OF SMYRNA

+ DIONYSIUS OF MELENICUS

+ PAISIUS OF SOPHIA

- + DANIEL OF LEMNOS
- + PANTELEIMON OF DEYINOPOLIS
- + JOSEPH OF ERSECIUM
- + ANTHIMUS OF BODENI

The Holy Synod in Antioch:

- + ZACHARIAS OF ARCADIA
- + METHODIOS OF EMESA
- + JOANNICIUS OF TRIPOLIS
- + ARTEMIUS OF LAODICEA

The Holy Synod in Jerusalem:

- + MELETIUS OF PETRA
- + DIONYSIUS OF BETHLEHEM
- + PHILEMON OF GAZA
- + SAMUEL OF NEAPOLIS
- + THADDEUS OF SEBASTE
- + JOANNICIUS OF PHILADELPHIA
- + HIEROTHEUS OF TABOR